regulatory institutions such as SEBI, RBI etc. have been established pursuant to statutes that also prescribe the legal framework for regulation of the capital market in the interest of all stakeholders.

Grants-in-aid for tricentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi

2271. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sought sanction of maximum grant-in-aid for tricentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi at Nanded city; and

(b) if so, Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State Government has sought financial assistance of Rs. 425 crore for tricentenary anniversary of 'Gur-Ta-Gaddi' at Nanded city to be held in 2008.

(b) At the discussion held on 8.2.2006 between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister, Maharashtra to finalize the Annual Plan 2006-07 of Maharashtra, it was agreed to provide Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 125 crore for Nanded city.

Smuggling of currency to Hong Kong

2272. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian currency is being freely traded in Hong Kong these days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indians are not allowed to take with them Indian currency abroad; and

(c) whether Government ha/e the circumstances in which the Indian currency was smuggled abroad and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM}: (a) and (b) Local newspapers in Hong Kong are quoting rates of exchange for Indian currency vis-a-vis HK$. However these rates are not indicated by Hong Kong Banks Association or the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). It may be mentioned that HKMA has not authorized Banks for purchasing Indian Rupees and even Indian Banksin Hong Kong are not to entertain deposits in Indian Rupees.